

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,829
Reply to Office Action dated September 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A conveyor apparatus, comprising:

a conveyor transporting articles having a direction of travel from a receiving end to a delivery end;

a separator assembly proximate the delivery end for removing debris from the transported articles, wherein the separator assembly comprises first and second rotating brushes having an axis of rotation substantially transverse to the conveyor direction of travel;

wherein the first brush is in contact with the conveyor and the second brush is spaced apart from the conveyor.

2. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the brushes travel in the same direction as the conveyor.

3. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveyor comprises a plurality of spaced apart cleats transverse to the direction of travel.

4. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the brushes are parallel.

5. (Currently Amended) A conveyor apparatus according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the first brush is nearer the conveyor than the second brush.

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) ~~A conveyor apparatus according to claim 6,~~

A conveyor apparatus, comprising:

a conveyor transporting articles having a direction of travel from a receiving end to a delivery end;

a separator assembly proximate the delivery end for removing debris from the transported articles, wherein the separator assembly comprises first and second rotating brushes having an axis of rotation substantially transverse to the conveyor direction of travel, wherein the first brush is nearer the conveyor;

and wherein the roller has an axis a first element extending parallel to and along the first and second brushes below and further from the conveyor than the second brush.

8. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a catch panel below the brushes sloping toward the conveyor.

9. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the brushes is in contact with the catch panel.

10. (Original) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the brushes are in contact with one another.

11-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A conveyor apparatus, comprising:

a conveyor transporting articles having a direction of travel from a receiving end to a delivery end;

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a separator assembly proximate the delivery end for removing debris from the transported articles, wherein the separator assembly comprises first and second rotating brushes, the first brush having a first ~~having an~~ axis of rotation substantially transverse to the conveyor direction of travel and positioned beyond the delivery end, and the second brush having a second axis of rotation parallel to and spaced apart from the first axis of rotation and positioned beyond the delivery end.

23. (Previously Presented) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first brush is in contact with the conveyor and the second brush is spaced apart from the conveyor.

24. (Currently Amended) A conveyor apparatus, comprising:

a conveyor transporting articles having an upper delivery run and a lower return run and a direction of travel along the upper run from a receiving end to a delivery end;

a separator assembly proximate the delivery end for removing debris from the transported articles, wherein the separator assembly comprises parallel first and second rotating brushes having ~~an axis~~ first and second axes of rotation substantially transverse to the conveyor direction of travel and positioned beyond the delivery end; wherein one of the brushes contacts the conveyor prior to the lower return run.

25. (Previously Presented) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the second brush is spaced apart from the conveyor.

26. (New) A conveyor apparatus, comprising:

a conveyor transporting articles having a direction of travel from a receiving end to a delivery end;

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a separator assembly proximate the delivery end for removing debris from the transported articles, the separator assembly comprising:

a first rotating brush and a second rotating brush spaced apart from the first rotating brush and parallel to the first rotating brush, wherein the transported articles fall onto the separator assembly and pass downward intermediate the first and second rotating brushes, and wherein the debris falls onto the separator assembly and passes over the rotating brushes and is separated from the transported articles.

27. (New) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transported articles are heavier than the debris.

28. (New) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transported articles are denser than the debris.

29. (New) A conveyor apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the brushes comprise bristles having a size and rigidity to support the debris.